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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC KVP Tank Training Battalion in Spechtberg of Mechanized Division Eggesin

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Designation, Subordination and Quarters

The tank training battalion (C Lehrabteilung) was subordinate to Mechanized Division Eggesin and was quartered in a new barracks installation in the woods near Spechtberg. The unit was also referred to as KVP office Spechtberg III. EM wore blue epaulets and officers black-bordered blue epaulets.

2. Organization and Strength

The battalion was organized into headquarters, 4 training companies and 1 technical supply company. At morning roll call on 19 March 1954, the battalion numbered 62 officers, 86 NCOs and 449 EM. One Major Klenner was battalion commander.

3. Armament

The battalion was armed with the following training weapons: 10 T-34/85 tanks, 1 JS-1 tank and 2 SU-85s. The tanks had to be repaired frequently as they had been used in World War II.

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Comment. The headquarters and so-called technical supply company form the cadre of the battalion, numbering 35 officers, 52 NCOs and 21 EM. The 1st Co trains tank drivers, the 2d Co tank commanders, the 3d Co gunners and the 4th Co gun loaders and radio operators. The training companies have an average strength of 120 men each.

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